

From: Mike Beauchemin, R.M. [harborcourtresidential@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 3:57 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: ** SPAM ** Council Meeting Testimony 2-25-09

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

BILL 8 (2009)

RELATING TO TRANSIT

Full Council Hearing

February 25, 2009

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 CITY OF HONOLULU
 HONOLULU, HAWAII

A rerouting of the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project fixed guideway to avoid Halekauwila Street has been urged by federal judges. Queen Street has been identified as one of the suggested alternative routes. We strongly oppose a rail route on Queen Street.

The reasons against a Halekauwila Street route raised by the federal judges apply to a Queen Street route as well. Harbor Court, a residential and commercial building at the corner of Queen and Bethel Streets, has substantial frontage on a very narrow (only two lanes) section of Queen Street. A 25-foot wide guideway structure would be practically in our door and would be hazardous to residents and business occupants of Harbor Court. Security would be easily compromised. We note that a state judiciary building, a major U.S. Post Office and a major fire station are located along other portions of Queen Street.

The federal judges express major concerns about acts of terrorism against federal buildings, but say little about attacks against private buildings such as those in the 9/11 attacks. No place is immune to potential acts of terrorism.

Noise for the federal building would be a factor only during daytime hours of the work week. Noise for Harbor Court residents and businesses would be a very serious problem day and night, seven days a week.

Halekauwila Street is referred to by the judges as an unusually narrow street. The portion of Queen Street and the set back in the area of Harbor Court and the building immediately next to it is even narrower. The anticipated route along Ala Moana Boulevard already places the proposed rail structure in close proximity to Queen Street. The suggested route change to Queen Street would place the rail system exceedingly close to our home, jeopardizing safety and well being.

We oppose the selection of Queen Street as a locally preferred alternative rail route.

MISC. COM. 514

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